

The vegetation of California.—CANNON⁵⁴ has published the address on the vegetation of California in relation to environment, which he delivered in 1913, at Carmel, California, before the members of the International Phytogeographic Excursion. The California environment is highly specialized, owing to the great climatic diversity, which in turn is associated with physiographic complexity. The corresponding specialization of the vegetation is shown in the marked vegetational types and also in the large display of endemism. An example of another sort of specialization is brought out in a consideration of the root relations of the oaks.—H. C. COWLES.

Branching of *Rhizophora* roots.—The repeated branching of the prop roots of *Rhizophora* is well known and has often been described. DOCTERS VAN LEEUWEN⁵⁵ has made the remarkable discovery that this branching is not a fixed feature of the roots, but is caused by an unidentified Scolytid beetle, which eats the growing portion of the roots. The destruction of a growing root tip is followed by the appearance of a lateral branch, about a centimeter above the killed portion. One plant was found far from the sea, in which an uninjured root grew down to the ground without branching.—H. C. COWLES.

Bees and cotton blossoms.—Stimulated by the discordant views as to the office of flower color in the attraction of insects to flowers, H. A. ALLARD⁵⁶ has made a series of observations on the visitation of cotton blossoms by bees, especially by *Melissodes*. It is concluded that the showiness of the flowers is the chief factor determining the insect visits. The removal or covering of the petals greatly reduces the number of visits. Only 12 per cent of the flowers inspected by bees were actually entered by them. Evidence is given of the influence of associative memory.—H. C. COWLES.

Polyporaceae of Ohio.—OVERHOLTS⁵⁷ has published a monograph on the Polyporaceae of Ohio, with full descriptions and keys. Approximately 100 species are described, representing 10 genera. One of the features of the monograph is that the descriptions are exactly comparable with one another, so that the contrasting characters are brought out with unusual clearness.—J. M. C.

⁵⁴ CANNON, W. A., Specialization in vegetation and in environment in California. *Plant World* 17:223-237. *figs.* 3. 1914.

⁵⁵ DOCTERS VAN LEEUWEN, W., Über die Ursache der wiederholten Verzweigung der Stützwurzeln von *Rhizophora*. *Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesells.* 29:476-478. *figs.* 2. 1911.

⁵⁶ ALLARD, H. A., Some experimental observations concerning the behavior of various bees in their visits to cotton blossoms. *Amer. Naturalist* 45:607-622, 668-685. 1911.

⁵⁷ OVERHOLTS, L. O., The Polyporaceae of Ohio. *Ann. Mo. Bot. Garden* 1:81-155. 1914.